

Issue four

Autumn 2013

# The Vault

Keeping History alive..



Hung! American traitor strung up in Kent!

## Introduction

The Vault is a year old! It began as a one-off newsletter following the Military Odyssey at Detling. Since then, thousands of readers have flocked to The Vault's Facebook page. We are currently setting up a full website to bring you up-to-date news from Museums and events, all over the world...

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## NEWS: Right Wing Fanatics Threaten Heritage Sites

We have spoken to Brighton Council to offer our support to the amazing building, The Brighton Pavilion. Its location was recently passed round the forums of the fanatical English Defence League, an organization associated with defacing places of worship. The team who run this historic home are non-political and we share their revulsion at the idea of EDL fanatics blowing up any building.



The Brighton Pavilion has graced the skies for 250 years. It has never been a place of worship, and we hope that the police catch any potential vandals as soon as possible. How anyone could be so ignorant is beyond the understanding of our team. On the morning of October 1<sup>st</sup> Duncarron Medieval Village received obscene messages accusing them of “selling out England” and being “race

traitors”. This was because the location had been used for filming scenes about the Battle of Bannockburn. This blatant ignorance has to be stopped and we wish both sites luck in sorting the problem.



**Right:** “Foxhole Fugitives” at Woodhall Spa 40s week end...



### **Expensive! How an Ancient Tudor Law Leaves Locals Out of Pocket**

Faced with an embarrassing problem, the Reverend Peter Lilley is working with residents to repeal a law dating back to the Reformation of 1536. When King Henry VIII seized property belonging to monasteries, he sold much of it to his cronies, only with enterprising clauses attached. This was typical in property law and remains so even to this day. The rules state clearly all repairs to churches must come from the local landowners' purses. Upon buying the land new owners become "lay rectors". If the parish rules against any owner they have no choice but to pay up. A couple who tried to tackle the problem through the courts ended up £500,000 worse off. On top of the repairs to their church, they faced legal costs for having pursued relief. "We don't like it, we don't want it, and we won't charge. We want the support of the public to get rid of it," explained Reverend Lilley.

So, it is a good idea if you live in Huttoft or Trusthorpe, Lincolnshire, to thoroughly do your homework. Should your home be built on land which was seized 500 years ago you could face court should you not pay towards the local church's upkeep. Reverend Lilley understands that many residents of his parish have never set foot in his church, yet, by law, they must pay. The locals are therefore lucky they have a decent vicar, for rather than being cast out he has made it clear he will not enforce these charges and is fighting to have them abolished.



# **Benson and The Wishing Machine**

**Many thanks to author Susan Dodd**  
**[www.Susandodd.co.uk](http://www.Susandodd.co.uk)**

Inspired by growing up in rural Lincolnshire, this series of children's books is ideal for bed time stories, reading round a log fire, or being tucked up in bed. The Vault are delighted to serialize Susan's work, this is the first chapter of Benson and the Wishing Machine...

## **Chapter One**

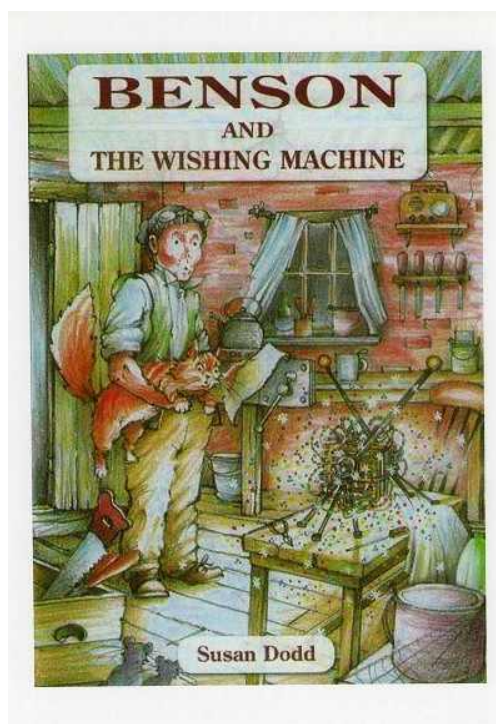
### A surprise For Benson

Benson, the ginger cat, strolled down the narrow one way lane. He stopped to sniff the cool air, and listen to the quietness. This was his favourite hour in Cinder lane – no one to shoo him away, no cars to dodge, no big angry machines that collected the towns rubbish, and best of all - no dogs! Benson padded slowly down the lane, hugging the shadow of the walls, just in case someone was coming to work early, and surprised him. Past the yard where the angry rubbish machines lived, past the scrap yard where the tangled piles of metal were kept, making weird shapes in the dull morning light.

Suddenly, the quiet stillness was shattered. Turning to look, Benson saw two, large yellowish, shining round eyes coming towards him, and the sound of bottles clinking together as if they were chatting to each other. Benson sat, out of sight, behind the large, old drainpipe that ran down a nearby wall, and waited while the milk float and its chattering load rattled by. With his two green luminous eyes shining, he watched patiently as the milkman left one bottle of milk on the doorstep of Mr Elvic's workshop. Peace returned to Cinder Lane as the milkman turned left at the bottom and disappeared towards the town taking his noisy load with him.

Benson stood up, stretched his legs and continued his early morning amble, past the back of the furniture shop, and past the garage where all the taxis lived. Lights flickered on in the classrooms as he passed the primary school. The cleaners were going about their business of making the school a nice clean place for the children to come to. The lane was beginning to come alive.

Benson strolled past Mr Elvics workshop stopping briefly to check that the milk was still there. Just a few more steps and he was at Bobs tiny cottage, which stood at the end of the lane where the main road ran. Bobs front door opened onto the main road and Benson gave a small spring forward and stood on the high step outside Bob's bright yellow front door. Benson's eyes roved over the town of Lud. There were rooftops of all shapes and sizes – some with chimney pots standing tall and others small. Wisps of smoke were beginning to curl from some of them as the town rubbed the sleep from its eyes and gently woke up.



As the sun rose, its rays began to catch the beautiful church with its huge proud spire soaring into the sky, like a space rocket ready to take off. The early bus rumbled by, carrying some sleepy eyed people to work and others looking as bright as buttons as they made their way to the market in the town.

Benson jumped lightly down from the step and walked back up the lane to Mr Elvic's workshop. He settled himself down on the doorstep to guard the milk. Mr Elvic would soon be here – eight o'clock on the dot – and that meant only one thing – BREAKFAST! The market place clock began to chime eight o'clock. Benson looked up the road in anticipation – surely Mr Elvic wasn't going to be late? No, sure enough the familiar green car came slowly round the corner and into Cinder Lane. Purring with delight, Benson watched as Mr Elvic parked in his car in the yard next to the workshop.

"Now little fellow" said Mr Elvic, as he got out of his car. Benson went to greet him. He purred louder as he was tickled under his chin by this gentle man who had rosy cheeks, grey eyes, that twinkled behind glasses and an ever ready smile playing around his face.

Because the mornings were chilly now, Mr Elvic's mop of white hair was covered by a blue bobble hat, whose bobble had fallen off, and which matched his blue overalls. The workshop keys jangled as Mr Elvic took them out of his pocket. He picked up the milk and slid the key into the lock.

"Come on Benson, let's get the door unlocked, and get some heat on" said Mr Elvic

Benson loved the workshop. He sniffed the familiar faint oily smells, and yesterdays fumes from the big black grinding machine still lingered in the air. Mr Elvic switched on the huge gas fire that hung from the roof like a big umbrella, and then filled the old stove in the corner with newspaper and logs. He lit the paper with a match, and Benson watched as the flames flickered and danced around the logs, waiting for them to burst into life as they took hold of the wood. Benson jumped, as he always did, when, with a sudden whoosh, the logs began to burn fiercely in the stove and throw out a lovely warmth. The flames were so bright that they threw out flickering ghost like figures around the walls. Shimmered reflections of the flames danced across metal tools, lawn mowers and machines that cluttered up the workshop.

"Here you are Benson", said Mr Elvic placing a bowl of milk in its usual place – on the floor at the end of the huge, long wooden work bench. "I thought I might be late this morning because it's my Birthday today you know – eleventh of November – and I had to open my cards". The bench was strewn with every tool imaginable, but Mr Elvic knew just where everything was supposed to be. Under the bench were hundreds of bits of discarded scrap metal. He never threw anything away that just might be needed in the future!

"Time to open the office door" said Mr Elvic. He put the key upside down into the upside down lock in the door. He thought that would help to baffle any would be burglars.

Benson lapped his milk slowly, raising his head every so often to watch Mr Elvic.

"Better open the back door eh Benson?" said Mr Elvic quietly from the office. Carefully finding his way around the machines, he unlocked the padlock and drew the squeaky bolt across the door. There was a rush of cold air and Benson shivered. Mr Elvic disappeared down the steep steps that led to a small courtyard. In the corner of the yard stood a tiny building, built from dark stone, with a slanting tin roof. Mr Elvic put the key upside down into the lock, turned it three times to the left and two to the right. He

reached up, knocked twice on the doorknob and the old grey door opened. Mr Elvic disappeared inside.

Benson had never been into the court yard before, and he didn't know what was inside the tiny building - it was a mystery and the unknown. He padded over to the wood stove and settled down into the warmth and cleaned his whiskers. The old clock on the wall ticked quietly away and Benson's eyes began to close. As he dozed he could hear strange whirring noises coming from inside the small building. He had never heard them before and he began to wonder what was making them.

Benson was woken up by Mr Elvic gently tickling him behind his ears.

"I wish you could talk Benson" said Mr. Elvic.

"So do I" said Benson in a strange meowing sort of voice.

"Oh my goodness, its worked!" shouted Mr. Elvic. "It's worked! It's worked! It's worked!"

"What's happening? What's happening?" cried Benson, (in that meowing sort of voice.)

The Wishing Machine! The Wishing Machine!" cried Mr Elvic.

"Please Mr Elvic I'm scared" said Benson, his fur standing on end.

Mr Elvic looked at him. "Oh poor Benson, I didn't mean to frighten you little fellow" he said. "Benson's green eyes were as wide as could be, and his tail switched nervously.

"Come with me, and I'll show you" said Mr Elvic.

*To be continued next issue...*



*Follow Benson Wishes on Twitter...*



## **Lord Beaverbrook, 1910-1918:** **MP for Ashton-Under-Lyne and** **Minister of Information**

**By Rufus A. Matthews BA MA**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1910, Max Aitken, a businessman, who had emigrated from Canada to Great Britain and had lived there for less than a year, was elected as an MP for the Ashton Under-Lyne constituency in Manchester. Today, it would be unthinkable for a foreign citizen to come to Britain and be elected as an MP in such a short time. The early 1900's were, of course, an age in which powerful men from across the British Empire, such as Aitken, could come to play prominent roles in British society. However, even in such times, the elevation of Aitken was particularly rapid. Within a year of his arrival he was an MP, not long after, he was knighted and just six years later he was elevated to the status of Lord Beaverbrook, a peer in the House of Lords.

His elevation had much to do with his friendship with fellow Canadian MP Andrew Bonar Law. When Aitken arrived in Britain he was still, first and foremost, a businessman and it was business that brought himself and Bonar Law together. Initially, their friendship was of a professional nature, but it soon became clear that their political beliefs were similar as well. Most importantly, they believed in the policy of Empire, Imperial Preference in trade and the levy of tariffs on food imports originating outside the British Empire.

At the time, in British politics, the issue of Imperial Preference divided the Conservative and Unionist Party that Bonar Law represented. The division was between those who wanted to create a powerful Empire trading block, with taxes on foreign foodstuffs, and those who were opposed. At the time, a very high proportion of British food was imported. The Imperial Preference policy could only really work if the territories of the British Empire could produce sufficient quantities of the foods that people wanted. The risk was that if they could not, the consumer would have to pay inflated prices on taxed food products from outside the Empire. On top of these risks, many of the opponents of Imperial Preference looked back nostalgically to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Britain had been the World's most powerful economy in the era of free trade.

With encouragement from Bonar Law, Max Aitken entered politics as a strong proponent of Imperial Preference. From the very start, his support of Imperial Preference was important to him. Following his election, he made a speech in which he put his victory down to good organisation and his support of tariff reform.<sup>1</sup>

In all likelihood, there were other issues that were more important to Aitken's campaign than tariff reform. Certainly the campaign was well-run and well-organised. Of course, Aitken put a great deal of energy and effort into it. Aware of the importance of publicity, he paid for the Unionist Herald newspaper to be freely distributed. He also arranged for important members of the Conservative and Unionist Party to speak on his behalf. One of those speakers was Bonar Law. Another important factor in Aitken's victory was his declaration of opposition to the 1909 Osborne Judgement. That was a court judgment which banned trade unions from funding the Labour party.

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<sup>1</sup> A.J.P Taylor, *Beaverbrook*, (London, 1972) P 52

Aitken's opposition to it won him votes from the Labour and trade union movement. It is very probable that this helped to swing the vote decisively in his favour.

Following his victory, Max Aitken served as the MP for Ashton-Under-Lyme for six years, until December, 1916. Always the consummate politician, whenever Aitken was actively involved in parliamentary proceedings he did much to publicise his role. After he made his first parliamentary speech he paid for it to be printed in full in both of Ashton-Under-Lyme's newspapers.

However, behind the publicity was a man who, ultimately, was not suited to the day-to-day business of being an MP. According to his biographer and friend, A.J.P Taylor, he found the majority of parliamentary debates to be 'boring and futile'. He rarely attended parliament and when he did he rarely spoke. To the despair of the parliamentary whips that needed his vote, he rarely voted, either.<sup>2</sup>

In 1911, he received a knighthood for his services. While it is not understood exactly why it was bestowed, it is known that he donated large sums of money to the Conservative and Unionist Party. He also loaned a large amount of money to the financially-struggling Daily Express newspaper. At the same time, he gave his patronage to a number of charities, but only those which he found included Conservative and Unionist Party members on their boards. Meanwhile, his wife, Lady Aitken, gave her patronage to hospitals. As a gesture of loyalty to his constituency, Aitken tried to purchase goods made in his district. For example, he chose not to purchase Duckenfield cigars because the Duckenfield factory was not part of his constituency. At the same time, those in Ashton-Under-Lyme who wanted to emigrate to Canada received special help from Aitken.<sup>3</sup>

In November 1912, Arthur Balfour, the leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party resigned. With the support of Aitken, Andrew Bonar Law made a bid to become the leader of the party. Bonar Law was a supporter of tariff reform and Imperial Preference, but so was his fellow candidate Austen Chamberlain. On November 13<sup>th</sup> 1912, it seemed logical for Bonar Law to pull out after a meeting of Conservative MP's when it was revealed that Bonar Law had only forty supporters.<sup>4</sup>

However, Aitken, who was convinced that his friend would be the best leader for the party, worked hard to persuade Bonar Law to stand for the party leadership. At the same time, the Daily Express, which had received large sums of money from Aitken, began campaigning for Bonar Law to become the party leader. The secretary of the outgoing leader, Arthur Balfour, believed that Aitken was behind the Daily Express campaign. According to him, Bonar Law was 'run by Max Aitken' who 'practically owns the Daily Express that has run Bonar Law for the last two days for all it is worth'.<sup>5</sup> However, there is no absolute proof that Aitken was behind the campaign, though it would seem likely that he was. What is a fact is that Aitken had previously given the paper £40,000 on the condition that they write complimentary articles about Bonar Law, illustrating that his influence over the newspaper was strong and makes it likely that he influenced the campaign supporting Bonar Law for party leader.

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<sup>2</sup> A.J.P Taylor, *Beaverbrook*, (London, 1972) P 56

<sup>3</sup> Ibid p73

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/BUbeaverbrook.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid



In the end, Aitken got his wish and Bonar Law did become the leader, albeit under rather unusual circumstances. According to a biography of Bonar Law, by R.J Adams, Bonar Law became leader because both Austen Chamberlain and Walter Long chose to pull out and support Bonar Law instead. It is said that they did so for the sake of party unity.<sup>6</sup>

There isn't actually proof that Aitken was in fact behind this rather strange outcome. However, there is no doubt that it turned out precisely as he wanted it.

In 1913 however, events took a turn against Aitken's political desires. Although Bonar Law personally favoured food taxes, he wasn't prepared to let the issue divide the Conservative and Unionist Party. The opposition of the party and elements of the press led to Bonar Law abandoning the policy, something that Aitken and six other Unionist MP's refused to accept. It is likely that the rejection of food taxes would have led Aitken into a long-term position as a rebel MP in the Conservative and Unionist Party. However, a year later, food taxes became a side issue when the First World War began in August, 1914. Nevertheless, Aitken never wavered from his Imperial Preference beliefs. He famously returned to campaign for them in the 1930's in what was known as the Empire Crusade.

By the time World War One broke out in July 1914, Aitken had been an MP for just under four years. In his final two years his energies were turned to quite a different agenda: to publicise the Canadian contribution to the British war effort. To do this, he, in essence, acted as an official communiqué for Canadian forces. He wrote glowingly about the efforts of individual regiments and the heroic actions of Canadian soldiers. For Americans reading any Canadian newspapers, his articles presented the impression that the bulk of the fighting was being carried out by Canadian forces.<sup>7</sup>

Aitken did more than just write about Canadian forces: when it came to reporting war he truly was a pioneer. He employed an official photographer and in 1916 the first photo of a tank, in action, appeared, thanks to Aitken. In the same year, the Canadians were also the first people to see newsreels of the war.<sup>8</sup> Of course, it wasn't long before other countries followed suit, but on this front, the way was led by Canada, thanks to Aitken.

1916 proved to be a busy year for Aitken who became involved in the intrigue that removed Prime Minister Herbert Asquith from power. Following the catastrophic results of the Battle of the Somme, in July 1916, David Lloyd George concluded that to win the war the command structure would have to change. He tried, firstly, to levy support from Andrew Bonar Law, who remained loyal to Asquith. Having failed to win over Bonar Law, Lloyd George turned to Aitken to use his influence to change Bonar Law's position. Aitken finally put Lloyd George's reform proposal to Bonar Law and won him round. Later that month, Aitken and Bonar Law met with Lloyd George and Edward Carson, the leader of the Irish Unionist Alliance. They put together a plan to set up a special war cabinet in which the Prime Minister would act as an overlord. They presented the plan to Asquith, who rejected it.

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<sup>6</sup> R.J Adams, *Bonar Law*, ( John Murray Publishers Ltd, 1999)

<sup>7</sup> Taylor, p 89

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p 89

Following that, Carson leaked the plan and the Prime Minister's rejection to the Times. As a result, Asquith came under fire and was forced to resign.<sup>9</sup> Lloyd George subsequently replaced him as Prime Minister.

Now, Aitken turned his hopes to becoming President of the Board of Trade, which ultimately didn't happen. Instead, Aitken was given a peerage and the title of Lord Beaverbrook. His new status, which gave him a seat in the House of Lords, required him to resign as an MP.

His elevation to the peerage, however, didn't buy his loyalty to the government. In 1917 he helped to fund a right-wing newspaper which had been set up by Noel Pemberton Billing. The paper campaigned for an air service, an air enquiry and air raids against German cities. It also had a darker agenda: to expose what it claimed to be a secret society known as the Unseen Hand. The Unseen Hand was said to be a subversive group of spiritualists, whores and homosexuals who plotted against Britain for a German victory, taking their commands directly from Berlin.<sup>10</sup>

Beaverbrook did not support this newspaper for long and in the last year of the war he was made the Minister for Information by Lloyd George. In terms of the role itself, he was certainly the right man for the job, bearing in mind the effective job he had done to publicise the Canadian war effort. The result was that his methods were belatedly applied to Britain. Consequently, exhibitions of war photos and war paintings appeared and newsreels of the war were shown in cinemas.

Beaverbrook, however, was not suited the daily routine of running a ministry. In many ways his tenure at the Ministry of Information in 1918 was a precursor of his tenure at the Ministry of Aircraft Production in 1940. Rather than appointing civil servants, he appointed his own acquaintances and caused offence to many. Neither he nor the directors of the Ministry took a salary from the Treasury. Many felt that by not taking a salary Beaverbrook was using his business wealth to buy immunity for all of his criticism of the government. He also offended the Treasury by cutting the budget of the department by £60,000.<sup>11</sup> Although he and his ministry did an effective job, he didn't fit in as a government minister.

The conclusion of World War One in November 1918 ended Beaverbrook's tenure as a minister. From that time on, he turned his attention from active politics to journalism, where he pursued a highly successful career as a newspaper proprietor. This will be the subject of the next article.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/BUbeaverbrook.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/BUbeaverbrook.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Taylor, p 142 - 144

# In Search of the Lincolnshire Bagpipe Written by Al Garrod



A starting point for anyone wishing to explore the history of bagpipes in Lincolnshire must be the ground-breaking research undertaken by John Addison, the almost legendary Lincolnshire pipemaker. John Addison lived at South Somercoates in North Lincolnshire until his death on 24th November 2002. His own letterhead announced him as a maker of Northumbrian Smallpipes, Irish Pipes, Musettes de Cour, Border & Lowland Pipes, Northumbrian Half Longs and Wooden-bodied whistles.



Since 1989, Addison's research and the existence of his *Lincolnshire Bagpipe* has often fired the imaginations of musicians and researchers but, since Addison's death, interested people have found it difficult to discover the facts. As it was the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, who commissioned Addison to re-construct a *Lincolnshire Bagpipe* I approached them to discuss John Addison's work. The Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire kindly allowed me to access to their file of correspondence between the Trust and John Addison, including the research conducted by both parties on this subject. The ability to consult these original unpublished documents placed me in a privileged position enabling me to re-examine this research and re-present it here. I include extracts with the permission of Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire.

*Before adding my own thoughts I offer a summary of how Addison came to build his interpretation of a Lincolnshire Bagpipe.*

## Background

### 1984: Addison published "The Lincolnshire Bagpipe".

In 1984, John Addison's article "The Lincolnshire Bagpipe" was published in "A Prospect of Lincolnshire" by Naomi Field and Andrew White.

Addison believed that the weight of evidence proved the existence of a unique Lincolnshire Bagpipe - as a regional variant of the instrument although he wrote:

"I must confess to some trepidation on approaching the subject of the Lincolnshire Bagpipes, since the information which is available on them suggests that such an instrument did indeed exist but it is not sufficiently detailed to explain what form it took."

[John Addison - "The Lincolnshire Bagpipe" in "A Prospect of Lincolnshire" by Naomi Field and Andrew White (1984)]

In this article Addison only refers to two depictions of bagpipes in Lincolnshire - these are the pew-end carving in Branston Church and the Moorby Stone.

At this early stage, Addison had already developed a belief that he never doubted - in his own words:

"Whether any of the above accounts are absolutely accurate, partially correct or just oblique comment, I feel that they give the impression of an instrument, the closest relative of which is, and possibly was, the most straightforward form of the bagpipe in Europe and had not changed in centuries."

[John Addison - "The Lincolnshire Bagpipe" in "A Prospect of Lincolnshire" by Naomi Field and Andrew White (1984)]

#### **12 Nov 1988: Addison is contacted by Lincolnshire Heritage Trust.**

David Start, the Assistant Director of the newly formed Lincolnshire Heritage Trust (now the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire) wrote to John Addison to enquire whether Addison would accept a commission for a set of *Lincolnshire Bagpipes*. Addison replied saying he would need about six months to complete any additional research and to finish a set of pipes.

#### **4 Jul 1989: Addison visits Lincoln Cathedral.**

Addison was introduced to an oak carving of a bagpiper that forms one of the roof bosses in the cloister at Lincoln Cathedral.

#### **16 Nov 1989: Addison to finish pipes before April 1990.**

The Trust asked if Addison could finish the pipes in time to be played at the opening of Topholme Abbey on 14 Apr 1990.



John Addison

#### **Research known to John Addison**

##### **1407: Bishop Bales**

In 1407 we find possibly the earliest reference to bagpipes in Lincolnshire: "It is right well that Pilgrims have with them both singers and pipers." Bale added a note in the margin: "Well spoken, my Lord, for the Lincolnshire Bagpipes".

[Bishop John Bale - Examination of William Thorpe, 1407: Parker Society, XXXVI, p102.]

##### **1583: Hugh Artie**

The inventory of Hugh Artie of Pinchbeck, 'pypar', dated 2 February 1582/3 lists his goods - valued at £11 11s 6d - including 'ij pare of pypes..ijs.'

[Lincolnshire County Archives. Ref: LAO LCC Admon. 1582/21]

##### **1590: Robert Wilson**

The song The Sweet Ballade of the Lincolnshire Bagpipe was apparently current in 1590 as it was mentioned in a play that same year by Robert Wilson. No extant words or music for this song have been found.

[Robert Wilson - The Three Lords and Three Ladies of London (1590). Cited in (1) W.C. Hazlitt, A Select Collection of Old English Plays. Volume 6, (1874), page 393. and (2) Francis M Collinson in The Bagpipe: The History of a Musical Instrument, published by Routledge & K. Paul, 1 Jan 1975.]

##### **1591: William Shakespeare**

In Shakespeare's "Henry VI" we find this passage:

Falstaff - "Sblood, I am as melancholy as a gib cat or a lugged bear."

Prince Henry - "Or an old lion or a lover's lute."

Falstaff - "Yea, or the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe."

William Shakespeare - Henry IV, Act 1, Part 1, Scene 2.



**1608: Robert Armin**

In his play "A Nest of Ninnies", Robert Armin wrote: "At Christmas time, amongst all the pleasures provided a noyse of minstrels and a Lincolnshire bagpipe was prepared - the minstrels for the great chamber, the bagpipe for the hall - the monstrells to serve up the knight's meate, and the bagpipe for the common dancing". The jester was also given a place in the hall but deeply resented sharing it with the piper: "Jack could not endure to be in the common hall, for indeed the foole was a little proudly minded..." He went "down into the great hall, and being strong armed, caught the bagpipes from the piper, knockt them about his pate, that he laid the fellow for dead on the ground, and all broken, carries the pipe up to the great chamber, and lays them on the fire."

[(1) Robert Armin - A Nest of Ninnies, J. P. Collier, The Shakespeare Society, London, 1842 and (2) cited by Francis M Collinson in *The Bagpipe: The History of a Musical Instrument*, published by Routledge & K. Paul, 1 Jan 1975.]

**1612: Michael Drayton**

Michael Drayton (1563-1631) writes in *Polyolbion*: "Bean belly, Leicestershire her attribute doth bear. And Bells and Bagpipes next, belong to Lincolnshire, Whose swains in shepherd's gray and girls in Lincoln green, While some the ring of bells and some the bagpipes ply, Dance a merry round and many a hydeggy."

[Michael Drayton - *The Complete Works of Michael Drayton Esq. Volume 3, Poly-Olbion (1612)*, Song the 23rd: "Blazons of the Shires".]

**1617: Fynes Moryson**

"Lincolnshire Belles and bagpipes ... are proverbially spoken of".

[Fynes Moryson - *An Itinerary: Containing His Ten Yeeres Travell through the Twelve Dominions of Germany, Bohmerland, Sweitzerland, Netherland, Denmarke, Poland, Italy. Turkey, France, England, Scotland and Ireland*, 3 parts in one vol., cited in M. P. Tilley, *A Dictionary of the Proverbs of England*, Ann Arbour, Mich., 1950 and William Shakespeare: King Henry IV Part 1: Third Series, Part 1. One of the Arden Shakespeare series published by Thomson Learning.]

**1662: Thomas Fuller**

Sometime prior to 1662, Thomas Fuller wrote: "Lincolnshire bagpipes. I behold these as most ancient, because a very simple sort of music, being little more than an oaten pipe improved with a bag, wherein the imprisoned wind pleadeth melodiously for the enlargement thereof. It is incredible with what agility it inspireth the heavy heels of the country clowns, overgrown with hair and rudeness, probably the ground-work of the poetical fiction of dancing satyrs. This bagpipe, in the judgement of the rural Midas's, carrieth away the credit from the harp or Appollo himself; and most persons approve the blunt bagpipe above the edge-tool instruments of drums and trumpets in our civil dissensions."

[Thomas Fuller, D.D. - *The History of the Worthies of England*, Volume 2, Page 267. (Edited by his son John and published in 1662, after Thomas Fuller's death).]

**1668: Samuel Pepys (not relevant)**

Wheatley's version of Pepys' diaries (Wheatley, 1896) mentions the Lincolnshire bagpipe by name, but a later transcription (Latham and Matthews, 1976) has the same passage as: "... called for his bagpiper". Addison wrote: "It seems that Wheatley put the word "Lincolnshire" into his transcription by supposition rather than with sound reason."

[Henry B Wheatley - *Samuel Pepys and the World He Lived In*, 1889.]

**1670: John Ray**

John Ray wrote "Whether because the people here do more delight in the bagpipes than others, or whether they are more cunning in playing upon them; indeed the former of these will infer the latter."

[John Ray - *A Compleat Collection of English Proverbs: Also the Most Celebrated Proverbs of the Scotch, Italian, French, Spanish, and Other Languages: The Whole Methodically Digested and Illustrated with Annotations, and Proper Explications*. Printed by J. Hughs, London, 1737.)]

**1875: William White**

The pipes were often noted in period literature as a simile for unpleasant noise, and an 1875 commentator noted that in his time the term "Lincolnshire bagpipes" was a local colloquialism for the croaking of frogs.

[William White - *Notes and Queries*, Volume 52. Oxford University Press, 1875. Page. 368.]

**1881 John Hunsley**

Canon Peter B.G. Binnall wrote an article on John Hunsley in 1881 - entitled "The Last Lincolnshire Bagpiper" but Canon Binnall does not provide a description of Hunsley's pipes, so the specific type of

bagpipe he played remains a mystery. The fact that Hunsley rode to Edinburgh to have his pipes repaired may suggest that they were Great Highland Bagpipes.

[Canon P. Binnall - Lincolnshire Notes and Queries, 1881 - cited in Anthony Baines, Bagpipes., Anthony Baines (1979). Bagpipes. p.134. and "A Man of Might" in FOLKLORE, Vol.52, pp52-74 (1942).]

### 1885: John Ogilvie

A description from 1885 refers to bagpipes, extant in Lincolnshire, as having a single drone.

[John Ogilvie, editor Charles Annandale - The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language: a complete encyclopaedic lexicon, literary, scientific, and technological. Blackie & Son, 1882. Page. 203.]

### 1888: Chalmers Encyclopaedia

Entry states that John Hunsley of Manton, North Lincolnshire, was still playing the bagpipe prior to 1850 and used to send his bagpipes to Edinburgh regularly for repair.

### 1933: Oscar Sonneck

A 1933 publication also describes them as "a particularly clumsy instrument emitting a doleful and monotonous sound."

[Oscar George Theodore Sonneck - The Musical quarterly, Volume 19. G. Schirmer., 1933. ]

### 1930: Radio Times (not evidenced)

The (unpublished) files belonging to [Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire](#) also contain references to Broadcast Notes - with illustrations - pertaining to a programme about English piping was thought to have been broadcast in the 1930s. Ronald Strickland, a retired piper, wrote to David van Doorn of the Bagpipe Society in 1990, describing his recollection of this programme and stating that it included a broadcast of Lincolnshire bagpipes being played. As the BBC sound Archive say that no recording of this broadcast has survived and no evidence of printed notes in archival copies of the Radio Times have been found, I am unable to verify this recollection with evidence. If anyone can shed any further light on this, please do email me at [al@garrod.me](mailto:al@garrod.me).

### 1976: Stephen Taggart

Stephen Taggart, introducing himself as "an enthusiastic spare time maker of reproduction instruments" from Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire wrote to the journal "Early Music" on the subject of Lincolnshire bagpipes. Brian Dawson (Lincolnshire folk musician) tells me that Stephen Taggart kept a music shop at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. In his short letter, Taggart already mentions the quotes from Shakespeare and Fuller's Worthies. He wrote: "My research so far has left me in no doubt that the Lincolnshire Pipes, so often referred to in historical writings, really did exist". He goes on: "Apparently, a similar instrument to that described by Fuller still exists in the form of the Spanish musette, but I can find no reference to it in any of the books I have consulted". Taggart also mentions the carved corbels of musicians - including a bagpiper - in the Church at Navenby near Lincoln.

[Stephen Taggart - The Lincolnshire Bagpipes: Early Music (1976) Vol 4, Number 3, p363. [Oxford Journals](#)]

### 1991: John Addison

Addison's second article was published in August 1991 in an American piping journal. In this article, Addison says:

"The Moorby stone provided the basis for the instrument which I constructed. In addition to the original chanter, I constructed a second one based on the description given by Thomas Fuller, as it does not match up with the above instrument. If Fuller had any working knowledge of musical instruments, the bagpipe he describes would necessarily have a cylindrical bore in the chanter. This is the difference between the two chanters I have made. The cylindrical chanter plays one octave below the conical chanter."

[John Addison - American Lowland and Border Pipers Association, Aug 1991. ([The Other Pipers: www.theotherpipers.org/index](http://www.theotherpipers.org/index)



## John Addison's "Lincolnshire Bagpipe" – 1989

*The Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire have generously allowed me to publish these photographs. Please respect their copyright by seeking permission from them before re-using any of their photographs.*



















*The Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire was established in 1991 with the aim of increasing understanding, pride and enjoyment in Lincolnshire's heritage. The Trust raises funds to protect, conserve and promote the rich heritage of the county for the benefit of local people and visitors to the county.*

### **Depictions of Bagpipes in Lincolnshire consulted by John Addison**



Lincolnshire County Council Museums Service Object number: LCNCC: CL.1982.4

Addison believed these bagpipes to be similar to the Gaita Gallega.

A late 15th Century limestone relief carving of a bagpiper and three dancers (two female, one male). This stone was removed from All Saints Church, Moorby, Lincolnshire when the church was demolished in 1982. Until then, the carving was sited on the inner wall of the vestry. The origin of the carving is unclear but it was not mentioned in Bonney's detailed description of Moorby Church in 1847 (N. S. Harding (ed.) Bonney's Church Notes, 1937, page 165) but was described clearly in 1913 (F.S.A. - F. S. Alston - Churches etc., visited by the society from Woodhall Spa... 1913, A.A.S.R.P., XXXII, Part 1, 1013, page 8). Between the two accounts the church had been rebuilt (1864). Many researchers have speculated whether this stone was previously hidden or perhaps brought to Moorby from elsewhere. The museum label for this carving previously suggested that this may have been part of a frieze (or a font). [White, A. J. "A Bagpiper Carving from Moorby Church" in "Archaeology in Lincolnshire and South Humberside", Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 18 (1983): 111.



15th Century carved oak pew end at All Saints' Church, Branston, Lincolnshire. Addison identified the animal playing the pipes as a bear.

This bagpiper is one of the oak roof bosses in the cloister at Lincoln Cathedral.

The cloister was built during the late 13th Century.



#### **An Alternative View by Al Garrod of City of Lincoln Waives**

I hold John Addison in high regard for the research that he carried out, but it is not unheard of for a later researcher to reach different conclusions based on the same evidence. My comments further explore the subject of bagpipes in Lincolnshire and provide alternative ways of interpreting the evidence.

Addison concluded that his research proved the existence of a regional variant of the bagpipe - i.e., *A Lincolnshire Bagpipe* and pointed to the Spanish Gaita Gallega as the standard ubiquitous form of bagpipe in Europe.

The literary passages, quoted above, certainly do appear to link the people of Lincolnshire with bagpipes (perhaps even more than one type of bagpipe), but I am not entirely convinced that the form of the instrument was a key factor to the enjoyment derived from this association. It is likely that the inhabitants of Lincolnshire were familiar with bagpipes well before 1407, when Bishop Bales mentioned them, and the various literary references show that bagpipes were associated with Lincolnshire through



to the 1880s. Unfortunately all of these references fail to provide either a usable visual description of the instrument or an account of the playing method.

In terms of visual references - Addison concentrated his attention on the Moorby Stone. The presence of the Branston pig (Addison incorrectly identifies this as a bear) and the ceiling boss in Lincoln Cathedral reinforced the idea of a specific form for a regional instrument. The *pig playing a bagpipe* was a very popular image in the medieval world. Pigs with bagpipes show up again and again in carvings and illuminations from Ireland, Scotland, and England, no-one seems exactly sure why - perhaps it is because pigs were traditionally (especially in medieval usage) associated with both contentment and jollity, and bagpipes with merriment. The idea that we should look to Spain, for evidence of what bagpipes were played in medieval England, was originally proposed by Stephen Taggart in 1976. [Stephen Taggart, *The Lincolnshire Bagpipes: Early Music* (1976) 4 (3). [Oxford Journals](#)]

As the bagpipe in the Moorby carving shows a very short chanter and a small roundish bag, Kate Bilmore (a piper and modern exponent of French/Breton music and dance) believes this to be more reminiscent of a French Biniou rather than the Gaita Gallega that Addison mentions. The piper has one hand on the bag, which also suggests an instrument of the Biniou type as the pipers have a habit of slapping the bag to force air through the reeds to start the drones - in the same manner as some highland bagpipers do. Following her examination of the Moorby Stone, Lynne Spicer (of Grantham Danserye) directed her dancers to change their hand-grip to raised hands with interlinking little fingers - this is exactly how the dancers in the Moorby carving link hands. Lynne tells me that this is unusual for English dance between 1480 and 1500, as it was considered poor etiquette for ladies to raise their hands in this manner. Kate tells me that this hand position, with interlinking little fingers, is often used in ancient Breton dances (this again suggests a French influence) and that many of these traditional Breton dances are still danced today. The continental influence, both French and Italian is also apparent in the names of some of the tunes and in the dance steps described by John Banys in the Gresley manuscript (also circa 1480 - 1500) (Derbyshire County Archives). However, I am not suggesting that a French Binou is the true Lincolnshire Bagpipe. The medieval carvers who created these examples may not all have been Lincolnshire men, or even Englishmen. We can never be sure whether a medieval craftsman was carving what he saw in Lincolnshire or what he remembered from some time ago, in another part of England or perhaps from his homeland in continental Europe.

John Addison felt that Thomas Fuller's quote was derisory regarding country people and their pursuits - and because of this he discounts the description as unreliable. On re-examining this passage is it possible that Fuller's "little more than an oaten pipe" may simply be a description of the size of these pipes rather than a derisory comment? If this is the case, I would speculate that he may have been describing an early form of the smallpipes - rather than a large bag and long drone. As we have no detailed literal description, this pipe may have taken any shape. An instrument similar to the Hummelchen, the Swedish or Danish Bagpipes or a pipe with the drone and chanter mounted in a common stock may well have been played in Lincolnshire (or some other type of smallpipe perhaps)?

[Thomas Fuller, D.D. *The History of the Worthies of England*, Volume 2, Page 267. (Edited by his son John and published in 1662, after Thomas Fuller's death).]

My hypothesis that smallpipes, may have been brought to England by Scandinavian invaders and traders, and played in the whole of the East of England, isn't a new one. Having already reached this view independently myself, on searching the internet I found that Paul Roberts holds the same viewpoint. In the [Chiff and Fipple Forums](#) on 5th March 2010, Roberts wrote:

"There are several references to 'Lincolnshire bagpipe' in 16th and 17th century sources. As bagpipes were still widely played throughout England at this time and were not usually given any specific regional identity, it does seem reasonable to assume there was some sort of special bagpipe associated with the Lincolnshire region. The best clue as to its nature comes from Thomas Fuller in 1622, who writes 'Lincolnshire bagpipes: I beheld these as most ancient, because a very simple sort of music, being little more than the oaten pipe improved with a bag' - this seems to suggest some sort of primitive smallpipe, perhaps similar to those found across the North Sea in the Baltic and Scandinavia... The last known Lincolnshire piper was John Hunsley of Manton, who died in 1851. Unfortunately, nothing is known about his actual instrument. Interestingly, just a few miles north and also on the east coast, one the last known Yorkshire pipers was playing around the Goathland/Whitby area circa 1914, and he did play 'Northumbrian' smallpipes. In fact there does seem to be an association between the east coast of Britain and smallpipes, probably reflecting longstanding Scandinavian/Baltic links, but I doubt if you could reconstruct the Lincolnshire bagpipe as such, given the lack of detailed description or pictures. Swedish and Baltic smallpipes are well described and illustrated in Baines 'Bagpipes'."

[Anthony Baines: 'Bagpipes' - 1979.]

Bishop Bales mentions that pipers accompanied pilgrims. It would be feasible to tuck your smallpipes into the front of your doublet or into a small bag for easy transportation whilst on a pilgrimage.

Makers of reproduction instruments consult many images and carvings for purposes of comparison before they decide on the final shape and dimensions of an instrument, even then sometimes so much conjecture is required that one can no longer think of the finished instrument as a *reconstruction*.

Limiting source material to one county significantly reduces the sources available. Even so, there are many more depictions of bagpipes in existence than Addison chose to refer to. In particular Addison does not refer to the bagpipers in (1) the Luttrell Psalter [The Luttrell Psalter: British Library, Add. MS 42130 ([British Library](#))], on (2) the outside of the Angel Choir at Lincoln Cathedral, and at the churches of (3) Heckington, (4) Colsterworth, (5) Navenby (6) Ashby-de-la-Launde and (7) Boston - and I am certain that many more examples exist which I am not yet familiar with. All of these pipes are in Lincolnshire and all have different characteristics - of particular note are the double-chanter pipes of Colsterworth. The more sources one consults the more difficult it becomes to settle on one particular definitive form. I believe that Addison understood this problem well and that he had to make some difficult choices about which sources to concentrate on and which to set aside.

The number of references that link "bagpipes" to "Lincolnshire" is exciting, but we should consider the possible effects of evolution during the 526 years between 1407 and 1933. If a regional bagpipe existed in 1407, one would have expected it to have changed and developed over the years. Considering the possibilities of; changing preferences of musicians and pipemakers; availability of raw materials; and evolution of the instrument as each new generation introduces their own improvements, it seems likely that even a specific regional variant of an instrument may have changed significantly during this time - if a single regional variant ever existed.

Returning to John Addison's own words:

"I give the reader this thought I am a maker of bagpipes (Northumbrian, Irish, Scots and French) and I am a native of, and work in, Lincolnshire. Had I been alive 250 years ago and pursuing the same occupation, what would present day historians have made of it? Though I am not a maker of Lincolnshire bagpipes I am a Lincolnshire bagpipe maker. Along these lines, I have been asked to make a set of Lincolnshire pipes, which I finally agreed to do. I used the Branston Church carving and the Moorby stone to guide my work, and was aided by computer enhancement of the original photograph of the Moorby stone carving."

The pipes that Addison built for the [Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire](#) could be more appropriately named "The Moorby Pipes". They are one man's interpretation of one of the possible variants of bagpipes that may have been played, and enjoyed, and danced to, in the county of Lincolnshire. My own conclusions on this subject are that a new researcher consulting the many other carvings and images of bagpipes in various locations within Lincolnshire, may well reach a different solution to the search for a Lincolnshire bagpipe.

### **This article was made possible with help from:**

John Addison - Pipemaker

Tom Lane MIfA, Senior Archaeologist  
of Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire

Lynne Spicer of Grantham Danserye

Kate Bilmore of De Mowbrays  
Musicke

Nick Parkes of City of Lincoln Waites

Dr James Merryweather



### **Addison's usual work**



*The types of instrument that John Addison was better known for include Northumbrian Smallpipes, Irish Pipes, Musettes de Cour, Border & Lowland Pipes, Northumbrian Half Longs and Wooden-bodied whistles.*

**Between 30th July 2013 until 3rd November 2013, The Collection Museum in Lincoln is hosting an exhibition based on this research**

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013 the museum's website described it like this:

*This exhibition, in association with the City of Lincoln Waites band, explores the Medieval 'Moorby stone' and its image of a bagpiper and dancers.*

*The bagpipe is an ancient instrument. Although experts argue as to whether ancient Greek and Roman instruments can be classified as bagpipes, the instrument is certainly evidenced in England as far back as the 12th Century, and stone carvings from at least that date can be seen on Lincoln Cathedral. In the 14th Century, Chaucer mentions them in his Canterbury Tales.*

*The bagpipe enjoyed popularity as an instrument of the masses and a great variety of sizes and types are known. This display examines a stone carving from Moorby in Lincolnshire, dating to around 1500 and depicting a bagpiper and three dancers, in the context of the Gresley Manuscript, a unique document of roughly the same period containing annotated music and dance steps. It also features replica bagpipes and a costume worn by the City of Lincoln Waites band, based on a late 15th Century example.*

*We are also pleased to announce that to accompany this display the City of Lincoln Waites and Grantham Danserye will be performing Medieval music and dance at the museum, including those featured in the Gresley Manuscript. Performances are free and will be held at 11.30am and 1.30pm on Tuesday 13th August, Tuesday 3rd September, Tuesday 17th September, Saturday 28th September and Saturday 12th October. Performances will last approximately 30 minutes.*

*The Collection is indebted to Al Garrod of the City of Lincoln Waites band for his enthusiastic assistance and knowledge, and without whom this exhibition would not have been possible.*

## The Battle of Le'wette Fielde

Pictures by Zoe Smith, Re enactor and  
Photographer

Ankle deep in mud, the 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders have the advantage over their loathsome French rivals. The year is 1811 and an unfamiliar banner appears on the horizon. Rumours have been whispered for some time now that the traitor Charlie Johnson has docked with his band of American privateers. These feared cutthroats will sell their souls for drink, and their presence upon this field is most unwelcome.



*The 79<sup>th</sup> fear nothing but  
God himself...*

Cannons are loaded. Cold fingers tickle the triggers upon their faithful Brown Besses, as these highly efficient soldiers stand firm, backed by less experienced but very tough sailors, civilians and locals. Foolish you are should you think the lassies are mere cooks and housemaids, as they too stand armed and savage.



*"'tis the rogue Johnson! Here he comes!"  
roars a scout.*

"79<sup>th</sup> "Forward march!". And with colours flying proud, the 79<sup>th</sup> face the foe... Hidden in the grass and trees, damp and wet through, lie the crew of the HMS Black Maria.

Guns are of little use, but their rusty blades are sharp, and their cudgels cruel. They do not even know who this Prince Regent fellow in the tri-corner hat is, and they care little. But the thought of rum a plenty and a bed for the night stirs their wicked souls.



They descend upon the musketeers like wolves from hell. Stomachs are cut, ribs crushed. The cannons echo for miles and the 79<sup>th</sup> scatter the French in moments... Johnson has been captured. Since Satan was cast from heaven never such foul screeching was heard upon this earth...

And then it is over. The wounded are tended, the dead buried. Johnson is brought before HRH Prince George and is taken to the woods and hanged.

Prince George Ave!



[www.facebook.com/ZestArtAndPhotography](http://www.facebook.com/ZestArtAndPhotography)

*Zoe Smith is from Chatham, Kent, with a degree in Fine Art History. With the 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders she travels a lot, and her work speaks for itself.*

**Witness Appeal For Alexys**

The photo to the left was taken on 6th October 2013 just short of a year after her attack. The photos in the bottom right are just some of the physical injuries that Alexys sustained, here's what happened in her words.

"On the 27th of December 2012 at approximately 9.45pm GMT I was the victim of a vicious attack at the Great Eastern Pub on Glenafric Avenue, E14, Isle of Dogs in London. I was working my night job as a karaoke host when I was set upon by 6 girls in an unprovoked attack.

The injuries I sustained were severe facial and head injuries due to punching, kicking on stomping on me. I had nearly 40% of my hair ripped out from the roots. I also have sprains in both ankles and my right knee and a few of my fingers. The rest were just superficial bruises all over my body although I am suffering slightly from mild whiplash and back pain.

During the attack, no one intervened and in fact 3 people came out to watch but offered no assistance. There was however, one man, a stranger who was very drunk but quickly ran out to cover my body with his to protect me. I never got his name and no one seems to know who he is."

No ambulance arrived and police arrived 10mins after the attackers left so the girls who did this are still walking free, with no consequences from their actions.

Please visit Alexys facebook page for more information including CCTV footage and the single she released to aid her Witness Appeal and raise some funds for the Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

<http://www.facebook.com/WitnessAppealforAlexys>

## The Vault Quiz

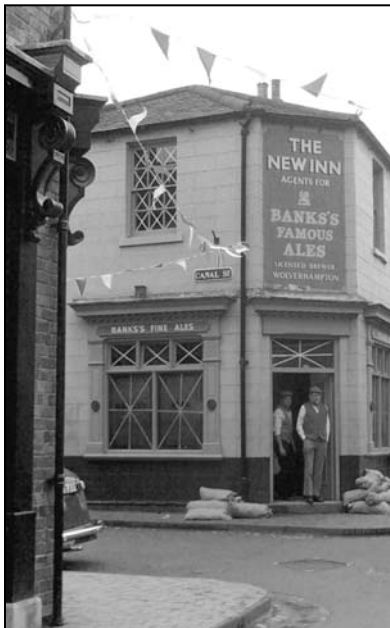
- 01 In which Year did James the Sixth become King of England and Scotland?
- 02 Which of the following is not a hand weapon? Petard, seax, trebuchet?
- 03: Which of the following is not a Battle of the 100 years war; Poitiers, Crecy, Tannenberg?
- 04 Who was the British Prime Minister on VJ day?
- 05 Where is Offa's Dyke?
- 06 What was sent to William the Conqueror from The Pope, in time for the Battle of Hastings?
- 07 In which year did Italy oppose Britain in WW2?
- 08 In which country would you find "The Dom" cathedral?
- 09 We associate the Battle of Winceby with which war?
- 10 What connects tales relating to Elizabeth Woodville, Charles II and Robin Hood?
- 11 Which Queen escaped in disguise promising the owner of his blazing home a bigger one? She kept her promise.
- 12 Who ruled Britain from 1901 to 1910?
- 13 Who wrote "The Rear Guard" about the Hindenburg Line?
- 14 Which of these is an Irishman; Wilfred Owen, Max Aitkin, Duke of Wellington?
- 15 Unscramble the following words associated with Spain:  
*IAPERR RONEGA GONARA RSOMO AUNGCREI*
- 16 On D-Day, what was a "hedgehog"?
- 17 Which Knights have the same insignia as Saint Johns Ambulance?
- 18 What are "Death or Glory boys?"
- 19 Who flew over the English Channel in 1909?
- 20 John of Gaunt was brother to which King?

## An Evening at Blist Hill



Blist Hill Victorian Town in Shropshire, hosted a 1940s evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. The event was to celebrate the local museum's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Attendance was astronomical, but the event proved to be well run. Despite 1200 visitors arriving at 18:00, they were inside very quickly. All credit to the first aiders and marshals.

The Victorian town had been transformed by volunteers in just three hours. WW2 posters had been applied, exhibitions set up and hundreds of windows criss-crossed, with masking tape. Dozens of authentic costumes and posters had been prepared, and period-correct food had been cooked.



The home guard patrolled the streets, and the public were encouraged to drill with them. Across the site, every building featured a display, from learning Morse code, learning to drive a horse, to cookery demonstrations. The smell of curried carrots in the cottages combined with the smoke of log fires was mouth watering! Blist Hill is unique as you can actually buy authentic items from each period shop. The Butcher sells meat, the bakery sells fresh bread baked on the premises, and the candle works makes their own, wrapped up in period newspaper. A trip to the New Inn is a must, sadly safety issues mean plastic pint glasses, but the atmosphere in there is incredible. There is also a period Fish and Chip Shop, drapers, chemist and sweet shop – you will need plenty of money if you visit! You can also change your money at reception for period coins...

As the day carried on, from the horse dung on the ground to ankle deep puddles, the atmosphere became better and better. The beer flowed, songs echoed across the site and my hair bristled as the band struck up Sir William Walton's "Battle of Britain theme" (written in 1969!). It was good to see authentic Women's Land Army uniforms, as too many confuse civvies (i.e. apron and frock) for Land Army. Small children were taught how to control a horse with Ruffles re-enactment.





It was remarkable to see small children mastering the handling of such a big horse!



*Ruffles Enactors were fascinating to talk to in their encampment...*

We were ushered into the school, inspected for dirt and lice, and then run through a few basics. It was evident that the school mistress needed to learn an awful lot at short notice.





*Thanks to Susan Haque and Blist Hill Museum Staff*

### **Recipe: Curried Carrots** **(feeds 3)**

You need; 1 tbsp Curry powder, a tumbler of water or vegetable stock, 1 tbsp plain flour, several large carrots, 1 small onion chopped.

Bring half a cup of water or stock to the boil over medium heat. Stir in a pinch of salt. Boil your carrots with a lid on for ten minutes. I added a small onion to my mix. Remove lid and give it a good stir. Put in curry powder and flour, and stir well. Add stock if it starts to boil dry. Leave to stand for a few minutes and serve.



## Goodbye to the Vickers VC10



2013 was the last chance to see the magnificent Vickers VC10 at an Air show. The Royal Air Force tanker, after 51 years of service, working around the clock, was finally retired on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2013.



Left; C1 (k) XR708 on display at Waddington, and right; A k4 makes its final landing at Bruntingthorpe...

Despite political trumpeting about British pride and preserving our heritage, these magnificent British transports are earmarked for scrapping, and at the time of writing it is not definite that one will even be preserved in the Royal Air Force museum.





*Interior of XR808. A few weeks later she flew into preservation at Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire...*



Until Concorde came along she was the fastest airliner in the world. Hence when Concorde was retired in 2003, the RAF has the distinction of flying the world's fastest airliner!



## **The School Dentist**

By Clifford Evans M.B.E.

*These are the memories of a child at the Bog School from 1942 to 1949.  
Best read in your inner school child voice.*

The dentist used to visit once a year, a form was sent to our parents to sign their consent, the question was, yes or no, we used to beg for them to say no, but they never did, they were a big let down.

The dreaded day came; we arrived at school with what can only be described as bellyache. He normally arrived with his nurse during lunch break, not that we could eat lunch.

The older boys were sent to assist to bring his equipment in. This was set up in the staff room. A foot pedal propelled the drill, it was rough and slow. A naked flame fuelled by meths burned before our eyes.

*My mother loaded me up with two or three large white handkerchiefs, 'to mop up the blood' she said.*

If you were the last in the queue, you had to witness the other pupils before you, holding bloodstained hankies to their mouths.

"Open wide", I can still hear his voice today, issuing from this elderly long faced man.

When he injected your gum with cocaine, if it was cocaine, which floated around your mouth with a bitter taste, which was painful enough, he immediately commenced to remove your tooth. First you felt a crack, followed by a large ache like pain. Then the commands 'rinse and spit away'. You did this twice, put a handkerchief to your mouth after you had said 'thank you 'of course, which you didn't mean.

I remember once stopping bleeding at 10 p.m that night and I may have been luckier than some. It was the girls I admired, who never made a fuss. Once, my mother gave me a bar of chocolate, no doubt as a bribe, to encourage me not to play truant. I kept it, and gave it to the dentist and his nurse, as I wasn't above a bit of bribery. They thought, mistakenly of course that I was a lovely child, but sadly the treatment continued as normal.

I have never paid out or offered a bribe since.

## **The Bog School**

The bog school is a community centre located deep in the Shropshire hills. Once part of a thriving mining community, the Bog School closed in the 1960s. It is proudly run by a dedicated team of volunteers.



## Recipe: Celebration Layer Cake

### You need:

1 cup of self-rising flour,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of sugar, 1 cup of blancmange powder, 2 oz of margarine or butter, 2 eggs\*, jam.

The cake was considered a wartime treat; we thought the amount of all that sugar would be nearly 3 weeks rations. So, we made an "art deco cake", and another one with 2 tablespoons of sugar and no icing... more in keeping with rations...



First was the basic cake, I kept sugar to a minimum and left off the icing. The blancmange made it taste very sharply of fruit! Beat sugar and margarine together. Mix flour and blancmange and add them to the sugar and margarine mix. Beat the mix well, and pour into two sandwich tins. Bake till golden.



When you have two cool cake halves, put a layer of jam in the middle. For the more extrovert cake, boil 2 tablespoons of water with 2 tablespoons of sugar and a small piece of margarine. When cool, mix in pink blancmange powder until you have good icing.

The finished cake is very eye-catching and no doubt kids will love it. I am considering making a banana one, with the other powder...

*Rufus with the iced cake*

*\* Recipe is for reconstituted eggs, but two fresh eggs will make absolutely no difference. In re-enacting we are not short of eggs! A cup confused us a bit. It's an American term meaning 8 ounces!*

## Recipe: Condensed Milk Cake



### *You need;*

3 oz margarine, 3 oz sultanas or raisins, 8 oz self-rising flour, 1 oz sugar, 1 tbsp marmalade, 3 tablespoons of condensed milk made up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint with water, 2 eggs.

*Rub the margarine into the flour and add sugar and dried fruit. Mix and add marmalade, milk and eggs. Grease a 7 inch tin, and pour the mixture in. Bake for 45 minutes at gas mark 4 or 180c in an electric oven.*

## Sir Oswald Mosley

The decline into ridicule and prison...

*In Part One, we looked at Sir Oswald Mosley's climb to power. Now we ask, how did he end up ridiculed and in prison?*

- *"The most brilliant man in the house of commons. The perfect politician who is also the perfect gentleman" Beatrice Webb, 1924*
- *"No relation of that bastard, are you?" – British soldier to his son Nicholas, 1943*

*To recap, Sir Oswald Ernest Mosley was the most up and coming, controversial and radical politician of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The youngest ever MP, elected at just 22 years old, he came into his own in The Labour Party, from 1924 to 1930. Greatly concerned by rising unemployment, and the approaching footfalls of communism, he found his words falling on deaf ears. Founding the New Party in 1931, it gained little support, and became quickly reorganized as the British Union of Fascists. Greatly influenced by Benito Mussolini in Italy and bankrolled by some of Britain's elite, The BUF ushered in nine years of violence and disruption on the streets of Britain, the like of which had never been witnessed before.*



*Fascism spread like fire throughout Europe in the 1930s.*

Watching speeches by Sir Oswald Mosley from 1934, you could be forgiven for thinking that the social reformer of 1931 was a different person. The man in a tweed suit addressing East London workers is only recognizable by his distinctive moustache. His priority was to get the unemployed into decent jobs. But, by 1934 all sensible policies had been sidelined in favour of posturing and Jew-baiting. This caused his deputy to resign. "You were a man of vision" he wrote before attacking Mosley for his anti-Semitic outbursts. Mosley had made it his crusade to tackle unemployment, and, in 1931, backed by seven Labour MPs, he had produced a massive plan, nicknamed "The Mosley Memorandum", which, after taking a month to write, was resoundingly rejected. Over 200 MPs voted against and 29 in favour. Despite this, much of it has been taken on over the last 70 years by various politicians of many different parties, some within just a few years of its defeat...

- \*A massive program of home-building was proposed. Slums would be torn down. The unemployed would be trained in building and the houses then would be sold to them on the cheap.
- Further education would be compulsory upon leaving school or \*national service would be required. No youths would roam the streets without purpose or jobs.
- Foreign imports would be banned. Furniture, cars, pots, pans and household items would be made in British factories.
- \*Healthcare would become free to all. Ernie Bevin, one of seven Labour MPs that backed the proposal, became Health Minister 14 years later and implemented the program.
- \*Vital services such as coal, water and gas would be nationalized.
- \*The railway service would be nationalized.
- \*The Armed forces would be re-equipped and, in the words of Mosley, “armed to the teeth”.
- The House of Lords would be abolished and replaced with people “of worth and service to the country”.
- The Cabinet would be cut to five MPs. (This had been done during WW1.)
- Unemployment benefits would be slashed, but wages would be increased.
- State pensions could be claimed at age 60.
- \*The age for leaving school would be set at 15.
- \*Massive programs for expansion of roads and airports would be undertaken.
- Grants to get the unemployed back on their feet.
- Foreign aid would end.
- \*A minimum wage was to be established.

*\* Policies that have since been seen through*



*Mosley in 1931 launching The New Party...*

Mosley was expelled from The Labour party in 1930, as it was evident he had already established a New Party. His departure resulted in several Labour MPs defecting to The New Party. Mosley later rejected an offer to return to the Conservative party as its leader. He was also courted by Sir Winston Churchill, to form a rebel party. Soon after, Ramsey Mac Donald was expelled from the Labour party, after having built it up and brought it to power.

Mosley was very bitter as he had helped save his former boss's reputation. This had

become tainted when evidence emerged of a sex scandal via “pornographic” letters exchanged between the Prime Minister and a mysterious Austrian woman, who had been physically removed from 10 Downing Street. If Mosley had allowed Ramsey Mac Donald to fall from grace he could easily have stepped into his place. Instead he bluntly explained to the woman that she was facing years in jail, and to therefore leave Britain. The issue evaporated. Upon winning the General election of 1929, rather than being given the cabinet position he been promised Mosley found himself relegated to a position with an elaborate title, which was barely even a clerks job. This was The Privy Seal of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The same Labour party that had welcomed Tom with cheers now loathed him. This was Mosley’s first mistake. It had seemed logical; take his popular policies to the masses. Such was the mindset of the typical Labour voter that Mosley could stand and encourage an immediate halt to immigration while wearing a red Labour Party rosette, and be hailed a hero. But when he publicly expressed exactly the same views, wearing the colours of a different party, the mob hurled chairs at him. The masses were not in love with him, they were in love with the Labour Party. Mosley had witnessed Lord Beaverbrook being ridiculed and his meetings being wrecked. In one incident, Mosley’s wife Cimmie was pulled to the ground and her clothes almost completely ripped off while campaigning for the welfare of the very people who attacked her. Something dark was clearly ticking in Mosley’s mind...

... the answer was to steward events with former boxers, led by Ted “Kid” Lewis. Mosley loved to tell of the time Kid had knocked out an assailant. He asked why he “didn’t hit him harder? For if he had, it would have killed him”. Mosley later fell out with Lewis as the party adopted an attitude of anti-Semitism. Mosley, now known as “The Leader”, was now flanked by brown-shirted bodyguards, giving Fascist salutes. Ted, who was regarded as a Jewish hero in East London, is believed to have shown his feelings by back-handing Mosley. What is not widely known is that the New Party and the BUF were funded by Jewish businessmen and at least 400 Jews were BUF members. Consequently, for many years, Adolf Hitler refused to meet the BUF. Mosley’s enemies also falsely claimed his wife was Jewish. He was detested by most other extreme right wing groups and had a fierce rivalry with the Imperial Fascist League. The first savage confrontations were not with the Communists, but with rival Fascists! Benito Mussolini had warned Mosley to keep quiet on the Jewish issue, and, to begin with, his advice was taken to heart.

The baffling thing about Baronet Sir Oswald Mosley was his mass of contradictions. Of landed gentry with a family history dating back to the court of Elizabeth the First, Mosley saw the class system as a barrier to progress. He had been brought up privileged in an aristocratic society where everything worked perfectly. There was structure, every man had a job, knew his place, was well paid and looked after. The Great War of 1914-18 would see this orderly world come crashing down around him. The destruction of Ypres in Belgium was “centuries of genius destroyed in hours” and he remained opposed to war for the rest of his life. Strangely enough, one of the German soldiers at Ypres was an unknown; Adolf Hitler! Mosley sold his ancestral home, Rolleston Hall, with much regret, accepting that the times of extravagance and privilege were gone. He later saw the civil war in Spain as everything he did not want happening in Britain – left and right wing forces battling it out, bodies in the streets, and buildings ablaze. Mosley committed himself to opposing war to the point “of almost religion”, in his own words.







*Ypres, Belgium, after its destruction. Lt Mosley felt that another conflict would reduce much of Europe in the same way and therefore he would do anything in his power, to prevent another war...*

Spending much of his youth fencing, hunting and chasing exotic women, at the time it would have been difficult to imagine “Tom” Mosley as a future Labour MP. For his father, with whom he already had a poor relationship, this had been the final straw. His father regarded Tom’s switch to socialism as a betrayal. Consequently, they never spoke again. His Father’s death was an embarrassment as while gaining a reputation as a man of the people, the last thing he needed was to inherit the title “6<sup>th</sup> Baronet Sir Oswald Mosley”...

*“It is totally unsporting and therefore un British”, Mosley in 1931, on racial prejudice. By 1934 he was spouting venom of a very different flavour...*

**THE NEW PARTY**

**SIR OSWALD MOSLEY ON THE RESIGNATIONS**

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, M.P., who opened the North-East London Regional Office of the New Party at Dalston last night, referred to the recent resignations from the National Council of the party. He said that in all arduous and difficult enterprises there were a few who could not stay the course. From the outset the New Party had suffered from the fact that a small section of their movement which came from the Independent Labour Party and other extreme sections of the Labour Movement had always tried to treat the New Party as if it were a fractional break within the Labour Party rather than a new national movement.

Speaking later at the opening meeting of the North-West London Regional Branch of the New Party, Sir Oswald Mosley said it was absolutely untrue to say that the recent break in the party arose over unemployment. It did not.

The first subject of dispute was that of Russia. They had submitted to them a few days ago a proposal that they should publicly adopt a policy linking the party with Russia. They would not bind themselves to any country in the world. The proposal submitted was that this country should buy wheat, and sub-tropical products from Russia. accidentally, Russia had hardly any sub-tropical products, but the authors of the proposal apparently overlooked that. It was also proposed to divert foreign loans from our Dominions to Russia. It was admitted that Britain would have to take the consequences of such a proposal by breaking with France and America and those countries which were hostile to Russia. It was an economic proposition of madness, a political proposition of folly. It showed that the authors were still bound to the fantasy of the party which they had left. The National Council had unanimously, except for two members, refused to accept that policy. The two members walked out. That was the whole story.

In the army, Mosley had loved the sense of mucking in with the lads, and when serving food he was continually in trouble for giving decent-sized portions. A misfit at school and often made to feel a failure by his alcoholic father, he soon found the belonging and acceptance he had longed for. He also carried a loving sense of achievement in sports. After an embarrassing accident when rotten duck boards collapsed under him, Mosley was hospitalized, aggravating a previous injury suffered in a plane crash. He wanted urgently to get back with his colleagues but the war was over before he was ready. He nearly lost his legs and had a limp for the rest of his life.

When The Great War ended on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918 the nation rejoiced. Patriotic songs echoed throughout Britain amid much waving of flags. Into the Ritz Hotel in London walked a cold, lonely figure, mourning many of his friends. Mosley was by now deeply traumatized by his experiences. It disgusted him that most of the celebrating crowds had done little if anything to help the war effort, nor did they have any idea of the slaughter and destruction he had witnessed. The old men sat there in their gentlemen’s clubs drinking, without a worry in the world.

*“Most of my friends are dead. My leg is an inch and a half shorter. What have we, to celebrate?”*

*Mosley quoted in the Ritz,  
London November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918*

### **Conversion to Fascism**



*Sir Oswald Mosley hosted the BUF Standard for the first time in Great George Street, London, in 1933. Note: he had not yet developed the trademark Black Shirt uniform. The lightning flash insignia came later.*

In the early 30s, sitting with his eyes wide, utterly transfixed, Mosley found himself staring at a pompous man in uniform, who turned out to be the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Like everyone in the room, he raised his arm for the first time in a Fascist salute.\*

Despite his fixation with Mussolini, Mosley was told by the dictator that Fascism wouldn't work in Britain. British people tend not to like change and Fascism “was regarded as foreign.” He refused to listen and, for a few years, his following grew. Several years later, Adolf Hitler also told him National Socialism would not work in Britain. The Nazis saw the BUF as a poor imitation of themselves. Despite this, the Nazis used Mosley to spread their word, to liaise with wealthy Britons and smooth the way for potential appeasement in the course of war.

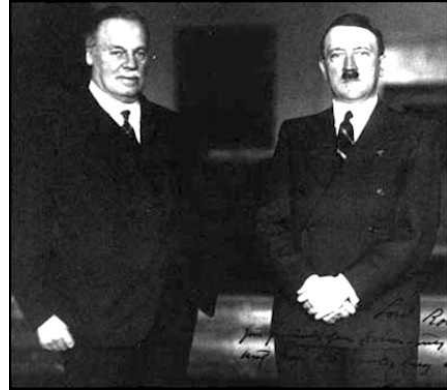
The Blackshirts, also known as The British Union of Fascists (and simply British Union after 1936), were more of a private army than a political party. The Fascist theory is that mainstream politicians are in the pay of the establishment, and, when the system collapses, a military leader will take over the country and restore order. This is exactly what happened in Spain. The Army rose against the socialist system and eventually overthrew it, backed by Nazi Germany and the Vatican. Mosley was obsessed that Communists would try and take over Britain. He had not made himself popular in the Labour party, (a haunt of Communists), by suggesting that in the event of an uprising “we will be waiting with machine guns for them”.

Mosley always denied he was an imitator of Hitler and it can be argued he was more influenced by Benito Mussolini. However, it cannot be denied that Hitler had a “Brown House”, so Mosley had an identical Black one. Hitler had brown-shirted body guards; Mosley installed black shirts. Both entities used the 2000 year-old Roman out-stretched arm salute. Both made huge use of drum corps and military-style parades. Mosley later argued that if the Durham miners could march with banners why not his “magnificent Blackshirts?”

For the rest of his life, Mosley denied he was against Judaism, or of being an “anti-Semite”. But, he allowed William “Lord Haw Haw” Joyce to produce some of the filthiest racist propaganda ever seen on British streets. Mosley controlled every aspect of his party, even from a hospital bed. While he was dining with the head of Marks and Spencer, (a huge Jewish business) his newspaper ACTION suggested Jews should be booted from Britain, and that they were “oily, pot bellied and sneering”.

William Joyce had been badly wounded by a street gang, and saw any opponent as “A Jew”, whether they were or not. From then on, Jew was simply a term of abuse for anyone opposing the BUF. Fights became frequent, and the Jews and their Catholic and communist neighbors beat up Blackshirts, who provoked them. They cut their Black shirts from their backs with razors and flew them from flag poles. An Irish docker upon being called “a bastard Jew” took on five BUF and sent them fleeing.

Over time, Mosley had taken millions in sponsorship from Lord Rothermere (pictured right with Adolf Hitler), an egotist who claimed he wanted “to be the richest man in Britain” and that “Italy and Germany are the best-ruled countries in Europe”. Rothermere made it clear he would no longer risk his reputation unless the BUF became a moderate mainstream party. Many companies were boycotting advertising in his papers. Mosley refused, leaving the BUF with minimal funding. Rothermere’s money had allowed indulgences such as a huge new HQ, cars, expense accounts and printing presses. There was only one pot of money left; the purse of Adolf Hitler. In order to reclaim his shareholders, Rothermere’s press now made it very difficult for the movement, and they were not afraid to bend facts. From then on The Media only printed bad stories about the BUF, often totally untrue. When Police saw Mosley speak unopposed for nearly 20 minutes, the papers claimed this event was a bloodbath. The policeman commented “in reality, you could nor hear a word he was saying...”



Mosley’s relationship with Hitler is unclear. He stated that he liked Mussolini, but meeting Hitler, on the other hand, was purely business. Where the Italian warmly welcomed him at their first meeting, Hitler did not even rise from his chair or even offer his hand. Hitler personally gave signed pictures of himself to Mosley, and his mistress Diana Guinness (pictured left), as presents. Mosley was rumoured to have a huge signed one on his desk. Later, he was at their wedding, albeit not as best man as generally believed. When Diana Mosley was arrested in 1940, Hitler’s wedding gift was hidden under her mattress.



Diana and her sister Unity were utterly obsessed with Hitler. They certainly spent more time with him than Sir Oswald did, including sharing exquisite meals and watching the 1936 Olympics together. (*Note the exact likeness of Diana on the 1936 poster, she was clearly fitting with Goebbels idea of Aryan perfection*) As late as 1977 Diana was writing of Hitler’s “lovely manners” and “beautiful blue eyes”. She had tried to persuade Hitler to come to Britain in 1936, but he knew he would be assassinated.

As a child, Unity Mitford had decorated her bedroom with Nazi insignia. Her sister Jessica was a devout Communist (albeit daughter of a peer, and brought up in a mansion) who lined the rest of the room with pictures of Lenin. She never forgave her sister for siding with the Nazis.

Violent Battles at Olympia in 1935 and Cable Street in 1936, destroyed any chance



of the BUF ever gaining credibility in Britain. Newsreels aimed at promoting Mosley to the world, instead showed footage of his Blackshirts doling out brutal violence. In 1936, 2500 of the BUF intended to march through the East End of London, where 15,000 Jews, Communists and trade unionists intended to slaughter them. From behind barricades and windows, missiles were stockpiled, including broken glass, marbles, petrol bombs and rocks. This arsenal included razors, chains, and potatoes inserted with razor blades. Mosley decided to obey the authorities, much to the dismay of his associates. The march was cancelled and the police ordered the counter protesters to disband, resulting in the fighting of pitched battles which went on for hours.

News footage of the time blamed the violence on the BUF, which proved disastrous for their funding. However, they were in fact two miles away. "We had to stop them" claimed a Letvinov, a local "if not, lives would have been lost".

Mosley, from that moment on, seems to have backed every unpopular motion happening. Previously, he had been spot on with the feelings of the electorate, now he clearly had no idea. Having been a pacifist for nearly 20 years, he backed Mussolini's reviled invasion of Abyssinia. The Spanish Civil War and massive developments in mass media revealed the ugly reality of Fascism to the British people.

When Mosley had first flirted with Fascist ideology, Hitler was still an obscure politician. Now, he was everywhere – and too dangerous for comfort. The campaign to prevent King Edward VIII from abdicating would have fallen on the deaf ears of starving Welsh mining communities that the BUF officials had pledged to help. Mosley had to sell properties to keep his party afloat, and he cut many of his staff members. The arms companies wanted a war, as they would gain huge profits from it, but Mosley lobbied well into 1940 to prevent it.

In May 1940, as France and Belgium again became smoking shelled craters, police officers arrested Mosley at his home. Winston Churchill had been against jailing Mosley. Despite his hard reputation, it disgusted Churchill to even consider the idea of locking anyone up for expressing their political views. But, Mosley had become a liability, and anyone seen as sympathetic to the Nazi cause was rounded up or interred under a controversial direction known as "18b". As British troops came home from the Dunkirk evacuation, bloodied but intact, Fascism was a filthy word on British streets. The Nazi Blitz, soon after, reduced much of Britain to rubble. Upon finding himself sharing a cell with a black musician, Mosley befriended him and tried to use his powerful friends to secure his release. Ironically the gentleman had come to Britain to escape the Nazis, having been refused to continue his job as a classical musician.

Mosley later admitted he would have "ended up like Mussolini", (hung upside down and shot in 1945) and had said in court that "if the Nazis did invade, I would put on my old uniform and charge them, probably being killed in the process". Despite a public outcry and riots outside parliament, he and Diana were released under strict conditions in 1943. As is the trend with public school boys, Mosley did not find jail so bad. "Compared to Winchester," he wrote "prison was nothing".

Mosley's post war political career in The Union Movement lasted another 30 years, with more brutal street violence, furious debates and outspoken controversy. Weeks before he died he still regarded the whole thing as a bit of a laugh and joked; he still had fight in him. In 1995 "Mosley", based on his son's books, became a controversial TV series. Oddly enough, it was written by two Jewish writers working in concert with his son.

46 years after Mosley last made a speech in Britain the effect is one of sheer revulsion. 75 years later his legacy continues to reignite anger and betrayal. "That Mosley," I was told, by an old Soldier "was a real nasty 'un. He really was."

## The Time-travelling Tea Dance

A wonderful spectacle of costume, music and art, in a historic setting...

The 300 year old Magistrates court has been used as the Spilsby theatre for 30 years, and recent upgrades have seen it become suitable for dances. Artist Sonia Turner and the Dandelion Trust served up a feast of colour and music on a horrendous wet weekend in October...



... it is hoped that this unique social event will develop further. Creating a night club of different periods, the debut was set in the 1920s and 30s. Complete with musicians in authentic costumes and tea and cakes from a period booth, the experience was unique and very different. The older generation put the younger to shame, dancing from start till finish.

The Time Travelling Tea Dance is @ Spilsby theatre. Check the website for details or find it on Facebook.



## Rose's Diary November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943

"I was still at school when Uncle Rufus boarded up his shop, back in 1936. He didn't want it smashed up by the Blackshirt yobs. In their silly uniforms, they would try and sell hateful papers to the Jews, then run away sniveling when local toughs thumped them. Uncle said they would hurt our family. I was put in the cellar with my homework to do. We found out there had been a huge fight outside in Whitechapel. Thousands of locals had stopped the evil black shirts from smashing up our homes. But the police had attacked them. The Battle of Cable Street raged for hours. There were hundreds of arrests, we were told. Uncle had been hit by truncheons but he was ok...



I am not a political person, but my values give me a strong sense of right and wrong. So when the lads asked if I wanted to come to the city of London and speak at their demo. I went along, a bit nervous, but off we went. Opposite Big Ben was a crowd. The soldiers cheered me when I got on the soap box. "This Oswald Mosley, Hitler's pal" I explained "is living in luxury, dining on lobster and wine, and now Herbert Morrison intends to release him. NO!" Again, loud cheers. "Keep Mosley in Jail!"

Now it was the turn of Uncle Rufus. He told the crowd that Mosley had dined with Hitler, Mussolini and Goebbels so it was his opinion that Mosley be kept in Jail. This man had tried negotiating with Hitler while our lads were coming home from Dunkirk, bloodied but intact. He produced a copy of the papers, and the crowd roared. Mosley was to be freed! A friend of Rufus, from many years spoke of the awful Spanish Civil War. He said it was horrific and he had been there as a medic. "Fascism," he said, "was evil and must be wiped off the map. We will not become slaves to industrial masters"

Suddenly the crowd surged. A taxi was pulling up, and with petrol scarce it had to be someone important. "Out of the way you rabble" roared the policemen. But it was too late. It was Churchill himself!

"Mr Churchill, can we have a word?" asked one of the academics. He didn't wait for a reply, "Your home sectary Herbert Morrison, this morning freed Mosley. We think that's disgusting and the British people are not happy!"

"I will have words" grunted Churchill, as he was led away. Policemen drew their truncheons and pushed the crowd back. The crowd began to shout;

***"Hitler and Mosley what are they for? Hunger, thuggery, buggery and war!" and also "One two, three four five, we want Mosley dead or alive!"***

The speeches continued and some posh ladies brought petitions round. It was an interesting day, and then we got the train home."

*"Rose" is the resident historian at The Village Church Farm, Skegness. The 1943 demo was re-enacted at the 40s weekend at the IWM Duxford on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2013. Thanks to Derek Herbert (Churchill) for taking abuse! Also thanks to Louise Wood at The Imperial War Museum Duxford & John Day for driving and support.*  
[www.churchfarmvillage.org.uk](http://www.churchfarmvillage.org.uk)



## The Vault Quiz

- 01      *In which Year did James the Sixth become King of England and Scotland?*    1603
- 02      *Which of the following is not a hand weapon? Petard, seax, trebuchet?*    Trebuchet
- 03:      *Which of the following is not a Battle of the 100 years war; Poitiers, Crecy, Tannenberg?* Tannenberg
- 04      *Who was the British Prime Minister on VJ day?*    Clement Attlee
- 05      *Where is Offa's Dyke?*      On the Welsh/English Border
- 06      *What was sent to William the Conqueror from The Pope, in time for the Battle of Hastings?*      The papal scarf, ie a blessing
- 07      *In which year did Italy oppose Britain in WW2?*    1940
- 08      *In which country would you find "The Dom" cathedral?* Germany
- 09      *We associate the Battle of Winceby with which war?* English Civil War
- 10      *What connects tales relating to Elizabeth Woodville, Charles II and Robin Hood?*    Oak Tree
- 11      *Which Queen escaped in disguise promising the owner of his blazing home a bigger one? She kept her promise.* Mary Tudor
- 12      *Who ruled Britain from 1901 to 1910?*      King Edward VII
- 13      *Who wrote "The Rear Guard" about the Hindenburg Line?* Sigfried Sassoon
- 14      *Which of these is an Irishman; Wilfred Owen, Max Aitkin, Duke of Wellington?* The Duke of Wellington
- 15      *Unscramble the following words associated with Spain:  
Rapier, orange, Aragon, Moors, Guernica*
- 16      *On D-Day, what was a "hedgehog"?* An obstacle to hinder vehicles
- 17      *Which Knights have the same insignia as Saint Johns Ambulance?* Knights Hospitaller
- 18      *What are "Death or Glory boys?"* The British Regiment known as The Lancer's
- 19      *Who flew over the English Channel in 1909?* Louis Bleriot
- 20      *John of Gaunt was brother to which King?* Edward III